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The Current

1966

Celebrating 50 Years as

2016

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

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OCTOBER 10, 2016

Irish Studies Guest Talks Hunger, Hospitality

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

Joseph Lennon, professor at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, spoke to University of Missouri-St. Louis students as well as local historians of Irish culture in the latest on-campus event for the Irish Studies series. Lennon presented his lecture, "Weapons Of The Weak: The Advent of the Hunger Strike in Ireland," on October 6 in Social Science Building room 331. He was introduced by Eamonn Wall, Smurf-it-Stone professor and head of the Irish studies program. They were also joined by Assistant Director Robert Baumann, coordinator of Student Fulbright programs, international educational exchange programs which connect UMSL students to other cultures.

Lennon introduced himself as a scholar from "a little farm town" outside of Springfield—Rochester, to be precise—before launching into the story of the woman who inspired his newest project, the advent of the modern hunger strike. Her name was Marion Wallace-Dunlop, a Scottish suffragette from the early 1900s who put the phrase "hunger strike" into common parlance with her own refusal to eat for political reasons.

Wallace Dunlop made history after alerting the press to her hunger strike—unheard of for a woman of her time—and stenciling pro-women's rights protest art onto the walls of St. Stephen's Hall. The artifacts of her life, from her prisoner diary to her portraits and letters, formed the treasure trove of

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Students and Faculty Discuss Censorship



Students and faculty convene at What's Current Wednesday to discuss censorship

ALEEAH HARDIN/THE CURRENT

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Who is served and who gains power through censorship? Those were some questions discussed at the latest What's Current Wednesday (WCW) on the afternoon of October 5 in Century Room C. About 11 students and faculty members participated in the discussion, which was facilitated by Dr. Kathleen Butterly Nigro, assistant teaching professor of English and director of the Gender Studies program.

An Associated Press article published in the New York Times, titled "Romance Novellas by Women in Nigeria Challenge Tradition," was the guiding piece of the discussion. Nigro pulled from the article six relevant topics: censorship, education, control, illiteracy, misogyny, and revolution. She wrote each topic on a piece of paper, which she pointed out individually as the discussion progressed.

Nigro explained that she chose this particular article to guide the discussion because "We learn so much globally about people ... We really don't understand the very basic expectations we have for our lives, which although we may want something different, we do have some freedom of choice to make our lives different."

She went on to say that freedom of choice is a big difference between Western women and women in other countries, who have absolutely no choices. She referenced a point in the article that said a 13-year-old Nigerian girl was forced to marry a 38-year-old man, whom she poisoned and killed. Even though a human rights attorney agreed that the girl had a right to do so, her family rejected her.

Further referencing censorship of women, Lynn Staley, associate teaching professor and assistant director and advisor of Gender Studies, asked audience members, "What do men get

out of keeping women from reading or becoming educated?"

"I feel like it's competition and also not wanting to give up their own power," said Rosie Jones, graduate, gender studies. "It was like Martin Luther King ... the oppressors aren't going to easily give up their power."

Jones continued, "I think it also comes from this fear of women binding together, for the fear that women will do the same thing to men [that men] have done to women, and I think the fear is also intertwined with a culture of misogyny."

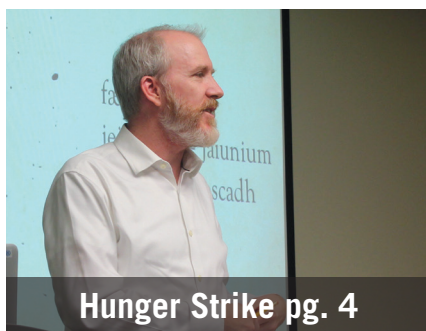
Nigro also suggested that globalization of social media has been causing shifts, citing controversies involving textbooks in Texas. She talked about Mexican and Latina coalitions arguing against the rewriting of Mexican-American history and the way that their cultures are being portrayed in new textbooks. Critics voiced concerns over

Continued on thecurrent-online.com

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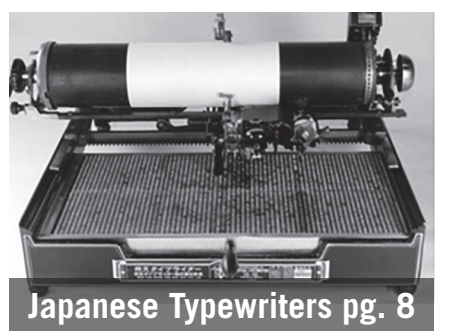
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ON THE QUAD BY MIKE DILBERTO

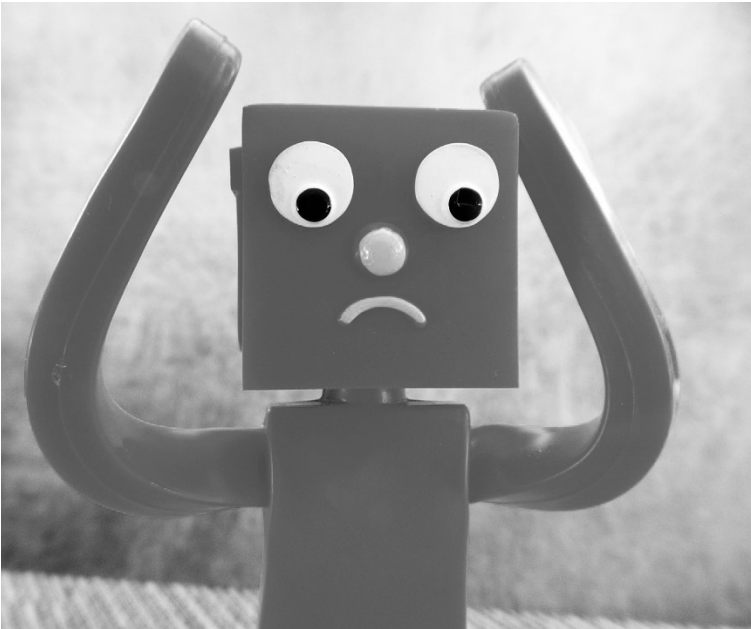
THURS
OCT. 13

Prizm's 13th Annual
DRAG SHOW
"Under the Sea"

Join Prizm in witnessing some of St. Louis' best drag artists perform right here, on the ocean floor!
6:30PM-9:00PM, MSC Century Rooms
Tickets: \$5 for UMSL students, \$10 for community

GAME CORNER

The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents:
Problem of the Week



Puzzle # 15:

The floor of a square hall is tiled with square tiles. Along the two diagonals there are 109 tiles altogether. How many tiles are there on the floor?

Email solutions to covertjdj@umsl.edu with an email titled "Puzzle of the Week".

Weekly Sports Calendar

Monday, October 10	Monday, October 11	Friday, October 14	Saturday, October 15	Sunday, October 16
MGOLF Midwest Regional Eureka, MO All Day	MGOLF Midwest Regional Eureka, MO All Day	WVB Crossover Tournament Away All Day	MTEN vs Alumni Match Home 10:00 a.m. WTEN vs Alumni Match Home 10:00 a.m. MSWIM vs Lindenwood Home 2:00 p.m. WSWIM vs Lindenwood Home 2:00 p.m. WVB Crossover Tournament Away All Day	WSOC vs Saint Joseph Away 12:00 p.m. MSOC vs Saint Joseph Away 2:30 p.m.
WGOLF Findlay Tournament Away All Day		WSOC vs Indianapolis Away 5:00 p.m. (EST) MSOC vs Indianapolis Away 7:30 p.m. (EST)		



THE UNDERCURRENT By Candice Murdock

WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS FALL?



SAMMI RISIUS,
Junior, Public Relations
"There's a show on Netflix called the Crown; it's a show about Queen Elizabeth and her reign and the struggle she goes through as a woman in a place of power."



JASMINE JAMES,
Senior, Communications
"I'm looking forward to How To Get Away with Murder and Law in Order SVU."



AKILA JACKSON,
Junior, Music Education
"The season series premiere of Speechless was 3 weeks ago. It's a show that talks about a person that has a disability and his family."

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CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR



At the time of this article, there is no crime report for the series of daily incidents reports issued by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department for the period of time between September 23 and October 8. This is the second week in a row that a lack of available incident reports has led to a lack of a campus crime report. The UMSL PD's online incident log has not been updated with any reports from September 23 onward, which is a continuing violation of the Clery Act. This is a federal law that requires UMSL to actively log any incidents on campus within two business days in a way that is accessible to the public.

The Current reported on the particulars of the Clery Act last year and how it requires UMSL PD to log records of on-campus incidents, including those "on unobstructed public property immediately adjacent to, or property that goes through the university's property," publicly and accessible to students, faculty, staff, and non-campus affiliat-

ed persons. A full incident log should include the location of the incident and a general summary of what occurred, whether it was a disturbance of the peace or a student turning in some found property.

The Clery Act was cited in a September 30 email sent campus-wide by the UMSL police, which stated that "the Clery Act requires each campus to prepare the Campus Crime Act and Fire Safety Report." They encourage people with questions to email their Clery coordinator at CleryCoordinator@umsl.edu, or to contact Captain Marisa Smith, UMSL-PD Campus Clery Coordinator, at 314-516-5148.

More information about the Clery Act and what responsibilities UMSL has in following it can be found at the February 24, 2015 article that is available to read online at thecurrent-online.com: "Federal Law Requires UMSL to Log Crime." Past campus crime reports compiled by the newspaper can also be found at the same website.

Mansion Hill Pool Closed



The Mansion Hill pool entrance, chained closed.

VANESSA MCKENZIE/THE CURRENT

LIZ WILEY
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Mansion Hill Apartments are at a loss as to why the pool has been closed for so long, with seemingly no work done to repair it. Residents can see signs around the apartment grounds that refer pool inquiries to an outside phone number. Questions have arisen as to whether the pool will reopen and if rent prices should be decreased because of the lack of pool access.

The *Current* reached out to Jonathan Lidgus, who is the Director of Residential Life and Housing at UMSL to find answers. Lidgus stated that the pool has been closed since June because of damage done to the pool by a group

of teenagers who do not live at Mansion Hill.

Lidgus approximates that the total cost of the damages is around \$1,810. The Condo Association is responsible for paying for the damage, not the condominiums themselves. After a vote, the association decided that, until they can find a way to limit pool access to just residents of Mansion Hill, the pool will remain closed.

Lidgus anticipates that the pool will reopen for the next season, with a system in place to monitor who uses it. Until then, residents will not experience a decrease in rent cost.

Any additional questions about the pool's reopening should be addressed to either Lidgus at lidgusj@umsl.edu or directly to the Condo Association.

Triton Red Friday Offers Perks for Participants



UMSL community members in Residential Life celebrating Triton Red Friday

TAYLOR MILON/THE CURRENT

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

It is not a coincidence that a number of people can be seen sporting red in the Millennium Student Center on Fridays at the University of Missouri-St. Louis this semester. Wearing red is part of a new initiative called Triton Red Friday that encourages school spirit by rewarding participants with several perks.

Assistant Dean of Students Miriam Roccia explained that Triton Red Friday serves a few purposes. She said, "Unofficially, for a lot of faculty and staff, Fridays have always been an opportunity to dress down a little bit while supporting our Tritons. Triton Red Friday is a way to encourage all members of the UMSL community to show off their Triton spirit. In addition, Fridays tend to be slower, traffic-wise, in the Millennium Student Center and on campus. We hoped this would encourage students, faculty, and staff to take advantage of a slower day and come hang out with us."

Roccia said that although participants can wear any red shirt to receive the perks, they are encouraged to show off their Triton spirit and wear UMSL gear. The promotion is open to students, faculty, staff, and anyone else wearing red.

One of two campus partners involved in the initiative is the Triton Store. Those who wear red and shop at the Triton Store receive 25 percent off all UMSL clothing, gear, and gifts, excluding clearance items.

According to Stephanie Eaton, manager of the Triton Store, there has been a positive response to the Triton Red Friday promotion. She said that each Friday, the store has seen two to three more people than the previous week come in and take advantage of the

discount. Although a few faculty and staff members have participated, Eaton said that the majority of people taking advantage of the discount have been students.

When asked why it is important for UMSL to have a promotion like Triton Red Friday, Eaton said, "We will literally do anything for school spirit. Between 'Triton Tuesdays' and 'On Fridays We Wear Red' we are promoting school spirit and giving back to the campus community in a way that we are able to."

The second campus partner involved in Triton Red Friday is Sodexo, UMSL's food service provider. Participants can take advantage of perks at Sodexo's three dining venues in the MSC on Fridays. At Einstein Bros Bagels, they can receive a free 16 oz. coffee with the purchase of a bagel and shmear. Triton Treats is offering a five-dollar fill-your-cup of frozen yogurt. With an eight-dollar purchase at the Nosh, participants can receive a free cookie.

Samantha Kheim, the Unit Marketing Coordinator for Sodexo, said that a number of people have been taking advantage of the perks and freebies Sodexo is offering. Sodexo served nearly 600 people at their MSC locations on the Friday of September 23.

"Triton Red Fridays give faculty, staff, and students one day each week to show their UMSL pride and be rewarded for it. It builds spirit—not only in the MSC—but throughout campus," Kheim said.

Triton Red Friday began August 26 and will run weekly on Fridays through December 16.

When asked whether the promotion will continue beyond this semester, Roccia said, "We hope that Triton Red Fridays will become a tradition in the Millennium Student Center at UMSL."

Hunger Strike Explored In Visiting Professor's Lecture

Continued from page 1

information that would be passed down from generation to generation until it fell into the grateful hands of Lennon.

From that point, Lennon expanded on hunger and hospitality, two overarching ideas in Irish life and folklore. He referenced stories that can be found online at the National Folklore Collection of Ireland (duchas.ie). In the three stories that the professor told, hunger was a driving force for either good or evil. In one story, the narrator enters a dream vision in which he fasts to destroy the "demon of gluttony" that threatens a kingdom. In another, a miserly old man repents his ways after a dream shows him a typical poor Irish family—a man, a woman, and child in a cold shack—who have nothing left to eat in the cupboards.

"Hunger always implicates," Lennon said. "If someone's hungry, it's someone's responsibility ... The narrative arc of hunger goes past death." These various tales of hunger tend to draw upon fasting as both a religious and a legal tool. For example, the famous Irish figure St. Patrick was enslaved and fasted for 40 days. During his fast, he saw a vision induced by his hunger that made him famous. His hunger strike appealed to both usages at the same time. He was also known for his infamous punishments against those who refused him rightful hospitality.

"St. Patrick does everything in threes," explained Lennon, as he told



Villanova professor Joseph Lennon speaks to Irish Studies students about Irish hunger strikes.

JESSIE EIKMANN/THE CURRENT

the story of the man who refused the famous Irishman food and ended up being burned, strangled, and drowned for his troubles. The audience was appropriately both in awe and astonished by the comically outlandish turn of events.

Lennon's lecture was followed by a question and answer session, in which students asked the professor about poet W.B. Yeats' influence on Wallace-Dunlop, the influence of the Great Famine on Wallace-Dunlop's work, and Yeats' own writing about famine and hunger, including his well-known play "The Pot

of Broth." Lennon describes the play as being about a woman tricked into providing hospitality, and that her gift for being hospitable is a lesson in the form of a useless rock. Just like the man was in the early 20th century according to Lennon, Yeats "was all the rage" in the after-lecture session.

Those who wish to learn more about Lennon's study of hunger, hunger strikes, and the Irish tradition of hospitality should look out for his as-yet untitled book based on his current studies, to be released hopefully soon. In the

meantime, students can read Lennon's nonfiction study of the intersection of Irish and Asian culture and art, "Irish Orientalism: A Literary and Intellectual History," which Wall described as a seminal work that "changed Irish studies forever."

The next event in the Irish Studies program is on November 5. The Ennis Sisters will be performing at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. Tickets are free for UMSL students with proof of Triton-Card.

UMSL Graduates Present Papers at Irish Conference

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

PowerPoints, Prezis, pointers and papers. Whether students enjoy them or not, presentations are a part of many classes at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. However, some students take their presentations to the next level, such as UMSL alumni, Laura Hastings and Cora Bartholomew. Hastings and Bartholomew, who graduated with their MA degrees in English, presented papers at the Midwest American Conference for Irish studies held in Lawrence Kansas from September 22-24.

Hastings' paper, entitled "Magical Realism in Irish Film: Selkie Folklore in 'The Secret of Roan Inish' and 'On-dine'," analyzed the representations of Selkies in two Irish films. "Selkies are seal-people... They are seals when they are in the water but they have the ability to shed their seal skin and be a person," Hastings said. According to the legend, Selkies can bury their seal-skin and remain on land for seven years. Selkies often do this when they fall in love with a landsman. However, this caveat backfires when fishermen steal the Selkie's skin and hide it, trapping the Selkie on land until they find their skin.

Hastings focused her analysis on "The Secret of Roan Inish" (1994)

directed by John Sayles and "On-dine" (2009) directed by Neil Jordan. "I talk about how some people complain about romantic representations of Ireland in movies... And there is certain truths to that... But I also argue that the way the legend functions in the movie is [that] it draws attention to [and] highlights cultural concerns," she said. Hastings argues that "Ondine," highlights alcoholism in modern Ireland with its portrayal of several characters with drinking problems. "The Secret of Roan Inish," features a family who is evicted from their island home on which they have lived for generations. "So it's... this idea of home, and being taken away from your home and then what that means for your culture and your history," Hastings explained.

Bartholomew's paper, entitled "Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' and the Universal Language of Waiting," focused on different representations of "Waiting for Godot." Beckett wrote in French and his writing was then translated into English, but he was an Irish writer. Bartholomew said, "I highlighted several productions in my presentation, but it focused heavily on two productions that took place in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. I used the play and the productions as a way to examine the universal language of

waiting."

Both students wrote early drafts of their paper in Dr. Eamonn Wall's course "Contemporary Irish Drama and Film" in the Fall 2015 semester. Wall, who is a Smurfit-Stone Corporation Professor of Irish Studies at UMSL, said that since the course is the often the first and only course on Irish drama for UMSL students, he chooses to teach both the "plastics," such as Y.B. Yeats, and "contemporary and cutting-edge drama."

Though Wall is a professor of English, he said that film and literature have some similarities. "Film is more of a visual media and literature is a print media," he said. "There are different rules in both [but] I'm interested in how they come together. Literature is narrative driven and a lot of Irish movies are narrative driven... Characterization is important in literature and film.

Dialogue is important in literature and film. Setting is important in literature and film." He added that many Irish film directors, such as Neil Jordan, were originally fiction writers.

Though the material in the course was specific to Irish drama, Hastings said that the students could choose their paper topics. She chose to write about the legend of the Selkies because it aligns with her primary research interest in folklore. "I'm just really fascinated with why people tell legends and what it says about that moment in history and the way legends develop as current events develop," said Hastings, who has also studied the zombie legend.

Hastings also said that she watched "The Secret of Roan Inish" when she was young. "It was kind of cool re-watching it in a more analytical [and]

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Intramural Volleyball: Ready to Serve Up Fun

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Back for a second year, 4-Player Volleyball will be played inside the Recreation and Wellness Center. Registration begins on IMLeagues.com on October 11.

Not wanting students to miss out on this fun and exciting intramural sports event, *The Current* reached out to the Recreation and Wellness Center's Assistant Director of Competitive Sports Daniel Bettmann, who has been running volleyball leagues for 11 years, starting at institutions before the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Bettmann was happy to talk about the safe, fun, and sportsmanlike showing of this year's

league.

The Current (TC): What makes 4-Player Volleyball one of the most popular intramural sports?

Bettmann: It's one of the best sports to play co-ed wise. Last year we had 21 total teams participate, 15 co-ed, and six men and women teams. Volleyball seems like it's just easier for the men and women to play together [while] there is some hesitancy with some of our other sports, such as flag football.

Four player makes it easy, because you only need four starters. Sports that require hire numbers, it's hard to get teams. For example, if we had 11 on 11 soccer it [would] be harder to get a lot of teams. So we try to keep the roster

size small to make it easier.

TC: How do students register? And what's the deadline?

Bettmann: For all intramural sports you register on imleagues.com/umsl. Then if you don't have an account you create one. [For] non-students who have memberships at the Rec Center, if they don't have a student ID, they just have to request an account and I'll go in and approve it.

4-Player Volleyball registration will open up on October 11 until the deadline, Tuesday, November 1 at 3 p.m.

All you need is your team name and your name to start, and then take a short captain quiz, just on the basics on the rules which is five to six questions long. And then you can add players

during that time, or you can add people during the season.

It's free; the only fee we have associated with intramural sports, is if you forfeit. Then we charge the captain \$25 dollars. That's because we want a high play rate.

TC: The next step after registering is attending a captains' meeting? Can you talk a little about what goes on at the meeting?

Bettmann: At the captains' meetings, you automatically get put into a waitlist. Then you get to choose your league, after meeting the minimum amount of players which is three people.

It's basically an informational meeting, so the captain meeting is really is just talking about what league you want to play in and giving you the schedule that's most convenient as possible. We also go over the rules, the basics.

TC: Can you go over the structure of the games? And the season schedule?

Bettmann: Every team gets in five games of the regular season, three weeks [of] a season, [and] one week of playoffs.

If there are more than 16 teams in coeds, men's, and women's, then the teams get split into a top flight and second flight playoffs. If you had a 1-4 season you'll get placed into second flight, with other teams of your skill level. Then if you're the teams that go 5-0, then you get placed in top flight which are more competitive.

There are five matches in the regular season. In each match you play three games. Even if you win the first two you still play all three which is new from last year.

We want you to get as much play in as possible. You play all games no matter what ... 45-minute match times. So you're guaranteed 15 games: five matches and three games.

TC: What would you say to first time participants? Or students hesitant to play?

Bettmann: This is the best option to try a sport. Intramural sports is the best way to decide if I like volleyball, or should I join it.

If you have a friend that wants you to join their volleyball league, and it's an outside league you might have to pay a large fee, and it may be very competitive, whereas here it's free.

It's no experience required, no skill level required; you're playing with your peers, you're officiated by your peers. They're there to have a good time and it's another way to have a great connection with your university especially if you're a commuter student.

If someone told me, "I don't want to play volleyball because I never played it before," I'd tell them that's a bad excuse. This is the best way to try it.

You can learn more about 4-Player Volleyball and other intramural sports by visiting umsl.edu/campusrecreation/intramuralprograms/index.html or imleagues.com/umsl.

Women's Golf Tops Fall Invitational



The women's golf team stands victorious with the UMSL Fall Invitational trophy.

COURTESY OF UMSL ATHLETICS

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second time this year, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's golf team has emerged with another team tournament title, winning the UMSL Fall Invitational at Oak Terrace Resort & Spa in Pana, Illinois, which was held October 1 and 2.

UMSL led the eight team tournament in round one. The team came up with a 290 score which ranks as the second best round in the program's history. UMSL would take a 20-stroke lead over the competition which included Lewis University (310). William Jewell College (328) and Maryville University (331) rounded out the top four for day one.

UMSL's Emma Thorngren, freshman, business and Maxi Roth, sophomore, international business would tie for the leader spot in day one, with a score of 71. With teammate Stefaniya Ivanova, junior, math and economics

holding a score of 72 close behind them, ranking third.

UMSL continued to dominate into the next day, competing in round two with a 296 score, keeping a solid lead over their opponents. Meanwhile, William Jewell was able to beat Lewis University with a score of 315. Truman State was able to score 323 to Maryville's 334.

Despite Truman State's efforts they were not able to rank in the top four. UMSL took first place; Lewis University, William Jewell, and Maryville University filled the second, third, and fourth positions respectively.

Having the best team performance was not UMSL's only accomplishment in the Fall Invitational. Thorngren also took home an individual award, the medalist award, shooting a 71 both days. This was her first medalist award as she placed third in the Screaming Eagle Golf Classic, and fourth in the Gilda's Club Laker Fall Invite. Ivanova was able to score a 74 on day two,

making her the runner up in the tournament. This was her second runner up finish out of the three tournaments thus far, her first runner up coming from the Screaming Eagle Golf Classic. Roth was able to finish with a score of 78, allowing her to finish in third place.

The Lady Tritons have been nothing but impressive this season. UMSL's first tournament win this season came earlier in September winning the Screaming Eagles Golf Classic in Evansville, Indiana with a total score of 581. UMSL would then place fourth in the Gilda's Club Laker Fall Invite in Allendale, Michigan with a total score of 615.

UMSL will now enter its fourth tournament this year, The Findlay-Beall Fall Classic at Findlay Country Club in Findlay, Ohio. With a victory there, the Tritons will have won 3 tournaments over the course of the 2016-2017 season. No doubt, their skills will allow them to capture another tournament victory on October 10.

'Hearts' Attempt Nuanced Look At Tragedy, Flames Out

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

There are books out there that accurately and thoughtfully trace the process of community grief in the aftermath of an immense tragedy, such as a school shooting. They walk through the day to day life of the survivors, the ones who have to move on while dodging the attention of an entire nation, not to mention the lingering presences of the ones who died. They illustrate human suffering and loss in complex ways. They humanize the seemingly impossible to humanize. Anne Valente's "Our Hearts Will Burn Us Down" is not one of these books.

"Hearts" follows four high school students (Zola, Nick, Matt, Christina) who struggle to deal with their lives, working on the school yearbook, and what they saw on the day their classmate Caleb Raynor gunned down 35 students, faculty, and staff before turning the gun on himself. But the shooting, surprisingly enough, is not the biggest terror on their small town. It is the series of mystery arsons that strike the homes of the families of the shooting victims that forms the heart of the novel. But where the novel falls apart is when it tries to juggle all of these various plot threads, leaving some to seem underdeveloped or ultimately abandoned.

There are too many moments in "Hearts" in which Valente overextends herself, repeating the same thing across an entire paragraph with little variation, or relying on listing things as a way to convey information in a mechanical, detached method. It is meant to be read as the overall voice of a broken community, but it comes off as cynical, obnoxiously all-knowing, and tired.

The format of "Hearts" is interesting, with a mixture of narratives, newspaper articles, and scientific data. But after a while, it becomes less interesting and more Valente showing off how much research she did about arsons and the human body. Nick spends all of his time looking up information and letting it drown out his own voice. His info dumping and blatant disregard for the fact that his classmates' families are the ones being burned in their beds eventually grinds on his friends' nerves, but there is no real push to find Nick another, healthier outlet to channel his frustration into. The adults are either useless or unerringly understanding, as if afraid to be seen as uncool by teenage children. There is a lack of complexity outside of the main four teenagers; the supporting cast is a mixed bag of ciphers, stereotypes, and plot devices.

We also have a forced setting and historical ethnography, like Valente had to write this as a post-9/11 St. Louis novel and therefore used every reference to St. Louis landmarks and the War on Terror possible. The characters are unerringly aware of the historical events of 2003 that are going on around them,

even in the haze of personal tragedy. One character's mother is seen reading a biography on George W. Bush in all of her scenes, as if she is solely defined by her fascination with global terrorism. I would not have been surprised if she had at one point been reading about Bush while wearing a St. Louis Cardinals sweatshirt and sitting at a coffee shop in the Central West End under a "St. Louis sky" while the headlines of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* read about

the World Series and the assault on Fallujah and blah blah blah.

The one strength "Hearts" has going for it is the complex web of relationships between the four teens and how they support each other through the aftermath of the shooting. Things get messy, they tend to shout at each other and curse, and some of them seem more preoccupied with their sex lives than their school lives, but it feels genuine for teenagers of their standing. I appre-

ciated their candor with one another. It is too bad that their relationships are hidden underneath a tangled mess of contrived plot devices, detached moments of emotional vulnerability, and a slavish attention to setting and timeline. It has pretty writing and complicated characters, but if you are looking for a deeper examination of a community post-shooting, pick up Dave Cullen's "Columbine" instead and leave the "Hearts" to flame out.

Breathtaking Horror: 'Little Nightmares'



A screenshot from "Little Nightmares."

TARSIER STUDIOS

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

As a child, imagination was our biggest enemy in terms of fear—a creaking sound in the night, the echo of footsteps, monsters under our bed, or even something lurking in the shadows. We envisioned them all. If you are really ready to engross yourself into the October madness, think about those childhood terrors, then introduce yourself to the new indie horror game "Little Nightmares." Though the initial set release date for this game is in the spring of 2017, the demo is available.

"Little Nightmares" has officially been in the works for more than two years, gorgeously crafted by Tarsier Studios and recently picked up by the publisher Bandai Namco. The surreal horror adaptation made its first appearance at the 2016 Gamescon with a two minute trailer. You play as a tiny child wearing a yellow raincoat who finds yourself trapped in everything conceived out of a nightmare. You must sneak throughout the area to find a way to escape. I found the most trivial matter to be sneaking past the somewhat hungry-looking demonic chef who slaves away in the kitchen chopping up meat. Though his movements may seem slow, when he spots you they are anything but.

There are benefits to being small

in this game: you can get away faster—depending on your distance from the enemy—and you can hide under the large objects around you that either give you height or immerse yourself in the shadows. Unfortunately, if the cook does spot you, he will chase you until he finds you—that includes going into the locked room next to him. I found that you are only truly safe once you have reached the vents. The player receives a match and some increments of light throughout the demo for assistance, but other than that, the game is based on pure brainpower and stealth.

The setting of "Little Nightmares"—ominously named The Maw—is peculiar yet alluring with its high contrasted colors blended in with a dark atmosphere. It stays true to its elusive theme by inviting the player to a very outlandish and eccentric environment. The game features an underwater construct, but other than that, the true nature of The Maw is being kept in secret until further release of the actual game. It does, however, harbor the echo of small sounds including taps, steps, and water drops to bring out a very eerie aura while playing with that realistic concept that is trending around the gaming community. The lighting of the game is extremely clear with high defined 3-D graphics and realistic blur in faraway backgrounds. The child, of course, stands out with her vibrant

yellow coat against the unsaturated areas of the game and because of that players will receive a lonely, yet unique experience.

"Little Nightmares" does feature various puzzles, simple but contemplative. Thinking like a scared little kid trapped in your own nightmare might just joggle the trick to figuring them out.

When playing this demo, I could not help but be reminded of an atmosphere like the film "Coraline," just less colorful, blended with that Tim Burton-esque feeling. The art and structure of this game are well thought out and organized, and because of this perception, gamers should not approach "Little Nightmares" with hopes of sudden bloody jump scares as in many recent horror games. This game travels along the lines of subtle horror that is more self-scare than a jump scare. The sway of the game on your screen added with the sweet children's music and rustling sounds as you move about really introduces that obsessed play you will get once you start the demo. I commend this game in its hauntingly beautiful setup and its childhood nightmare abstraction it has uniquely created.

"Little Nightmares" is a single-player video game that will release on three platforms: PlayStation 4, Xbox One, and Microsoft Windows.

My Life Is Worthless to the Dominant Society

BRANDON PERKINS
STAFF WRITER

“Black lives matter” has been one of the most frequently used phrases over the past few years. However, based on recent events and historical data, one can only find this phrase to be quite false in the sense of the word “matter.” Some of the definitions of matter include “to be of importance” and “something of consequence.” Were Mike Brown, Akai Gurley, ReNisha McBride and countless other black people treated with importance? Were there ever consequences for what happened to Sandra Bland, Philando Castile, Trayvon Martin, Alton Sterling, or Freddie Gray? Once again an unarmed black person, Alfred Olango, was shot and killed following interaction with two El Cajon police officers.

In the video Olango is seen pointing his hand toward the officers and producing an item, believed to be a gun, that turned out to be some type of tobacco vaporizer. A vaporizer is used for smoking. One would only think that a trained officer would know the difference between a smoking-device and a gun. Yet when the suspect or victim is black, he or she is almost always perceived to have a gun, even if it is really just a book or vaporizer. According to accounts, 911 dispatch was called by the victim’s sister because Alfred had had a seizure and been acting erratic. It is quite horrific that the very people called for help are the ones who might end up doing the most harm imaginable.

Like most of these occurrences, there will be no consequences. One can only wonder why there were no EMT workers or other medical personnel on the scene; why there were only two police officers if the victim was having a medical emergency. If the victim were a member of the dominant society, this tragedy would have never happened. However, black lives matter, right?

I recently observed an interview of NBA basketball star LeBron James, and during the interview James was asked about his thoughts on the recent police-related violence. During the interview James stated, “It’s a scary thought right now to think, if my son gets pulled over, you tell your kids, ‘if you just comply, and you just listen to the police, that if they will be respectful things will work themselves out.’ And you see these videos that continue to come out, it’s a scary situation. If my son calls me and says he’s been pulled over, that I’m not that confident that things are going to go well, and my son is going to return home.” If black lives matter, how could one of the most powerful people in the world have these fears?

I can recall several personal run-ins with overly aggressive law officials. One night specifically while walking home from work, I was stopped by a University City Police officer and aggressively dealt with. Instead of treating me like a free citizen, the officer immediately shouted at me, “What the fuck are you doing out here?!” Before I had a chance to say anything, the officer rushed out his car, grabbed me, and threw me

BLACK LIVES MATTER

against the hood of his car. The officer then demanded to see identification; I did not resist and presented my identification card. Another officer then arrived on the scene. The officer forced me to sit on the dirty pavement while looking up my information. Once the officer was done checking my criminal history, which is nonexistent, he handed me my ID and told me I could leave. I then proceeded on my journey home.

This hateful treatment of black citizens must not continue. I believe that denying black citizens equal protec-

tion under the Constitution, while in other cases using the law to punish us to the fullest extent allowed is an atrocity, one that America should be ashamed to have created. In this country, the land of the “free,” this systematic practice has been perfected and reinforced over the last 400 years. All systems of white supremacy including but not limited to education, healthcare, banking, judicial, political, religion, employment, and media must be revolutionized, if black lives matter.

EACH VOICE COUNTS

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My Struggle: Percieved Racism In Gay Community

TRAVONTE HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

I have been out as bisexual for three years going on four. I have struggled with racism in the gay community. As if it wasn’t enough to have straight people looking down on me and calling me names and criticizing the way I live my life, now I have to deal with racism because of the color of my skin and from my own people.

A downside to being bisexual is the fact that no girl will date me because I’m openly bisexual. With that being said, straight people are still more open-minded than gay people. The first dating app I went on was Meetme back in 2013 when I had just left high school. I soon became obsessed and addicted. I wanted to find the perfect match—that one person who I could spend a good portion of my life with. It never happened. So I joined Grindr.

All I wanted to do was to be open-minded and date outside of my race, preferably someone who was Caucasian or Latino. But back then I

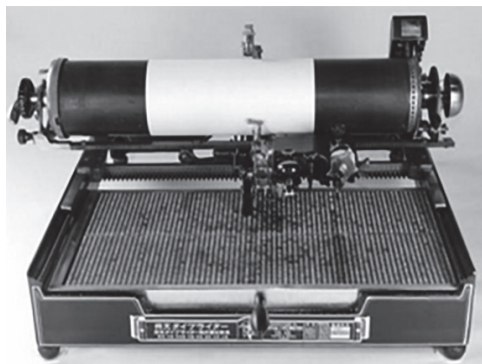
saw a lot of posts on the dating apps like “Anyone but black,” “No blacks allowed,” and I had to stop myself and think, “Am I in the 60s or is this reality?” It struck me that so many Caucasians did not want to date a black guy; I questioned, “Am I unattractive? Am I not good enough for them? How is it that my brother can get all the white girls he wants, but when it comes to me I can’t even get one guy?”

I struggled with self-doubt... so I tried hatred. I found myself being just as close-minded as the people I hated. I started saying really offensive stuff on Facebook. I was starting to hate the LGBT community and hate myself for being a part of it.

But after much backlash from friends and family, I realized that hating them would solve nothing. So I tried to return to dating apps. Before I came out, I never had a problem with racism. I could get black girls, white girls, some mixed girls, and never had a problem. But in dealing with trying to go after my dream guy, I was met with opposi-

Continued on thecurrent-online.com

Gutenberg Revolution: Japanese Typewriters



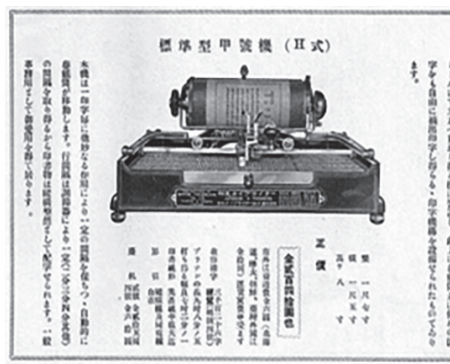
DANIEL STRAWHUN
OPINIONS EDITOR

As one of only two universities in the St. Louis metropolitan area to offer a Japanese Studies major, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is at the forefront of the push for global literacy. As part of this advocacy, the International Studies and Programs, the Japan Studies Alliance, and the Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Professorship in Japanese Studies co-sponsored a lecture by Dr. Raja Adal, assistant professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh, on October 5. The title of the lecture was "The Children of the Gutenberg Revolution: Japanese Typewriters and the Extension of Print as a Universal Language."

Adal, who received his PhD from Harvard University in 2009, began the lecture by highlighting the differences between Latin and non-Latin scripts. Most of these differences, which include variable spacing, larger syllabaries, and dead symbols, complicated and delayed the invention of typewriters for non-Latin scripts, especially Japanese. In 1915, a full 55 years after the invention of the Latin-character typewriter, the first Japanese typewriter was released for commercial use. It had two sets of 48-syllabary trays and over 3,000 symbols.

As Adal said, "In some ways, the Japanese typewriter is a cross between what we think of as the typewriter and the printing press." He showed a video demonstrating the difference between the Latin and Japanese typewriters. The Japanese typewriter utilized a kind of floating-arm mechanism that the typist would guide over the syllabary trays until she found the correct character, whereupon she would press down emphatically, stamping the selected character onto a roll of paper above. The whole process was incredibly inefficient relative to the characters-per-minute that Latin typewriters could produce; however, the Japanese typewriter was still slightly more efficient than long-hand.

Although increased efficiency was an impetus for the switch to typewriters in Japan, it was not the only reason businesses adopted mechanized writing. As Adal explained, the typewriter also greatly improved both accuracy and legibility, as well as reproducibility. He said, "In terms of speed, handwriting and typewriting are more or less the



same...[but in terms of] accuracy and legibility, you make more mistakes and it's less easily readable with handwriting. [A] typewriter [creates] fewer mistakes and [is] more readable. With handwriting, additional copies require a mimeograph; whereas with the typewriter, you can just put carbon paper behind the sheet of paper and make up to five copies. And then there is the initial capital investment which is much higher for the typewriter... [but] the human resources cost is much lower because you can hire women." He explained, "All scribes are male—pretty much all scribes—the vast majority of scribes are; whereas typists in Japan, and in the West, are female." Scribes earned a higher salary than typists. Adal also clarified that Japanese typewriters were almost never owned by private individuals; they were used almost exclusively in business settings.

He then stated, "I'm arguing that the spread of the typewriter is part of the massive spread of print, which really begins with the Gutenberg revolution; it begins with the printing press. But it's also crucially dependent on the typewriter...because most of the written output of humanity is not printed on the printing press; it's a tiny minority of it."

With this, Adal segued into the main argument of his presentation. He said, "A universal language never takes over obviously; a universal script never takes over. But print does succeed as a universal language." What Adal means, more or less, is that the popularity of the typewriter caused print to supplant handwriting as the sort of universal medium through which the majority of information was thenceforth disseminated. He outlined two main reasons for this: circulation and authority. By circulation, Adal means that the typewriter allowed documents to be replicated and shared more easily. He also noted that typed documents simplified storage, as paper sizes were standardized for use in the typewriter. By authority, Adal means that the sterile, disembodied quality that print introduced to the writing lent it a kind of bureaucratic austerity that was unattainable in handwritten text.

After the presentation, Adal answered questions from the audience.

To read more about Adal's work, visit history.pitt.edu/people/raja-adal.

UMSL Graduates Present Papers at Irish Conference

Continued from page 4

critical way," she said.

Bartholomew studied under Wall for three semesters. "My dad's side of the family traces back to County Cork, Ireland, so I've always had a general interest," Bartholomew explained. She chose "Waiting for Godot" as her paper topic because she saw a Broadway production of the play featuring Bill Irwin, Nathan Lane, and John Goodman, and she read the play several times throughout her academic career. When Wall learned of her interest in the play, he suggested that she read James Knowlson's biography of Beckett, "Damned to Fame." She continued to do research on the play and Beckett and eventually narrowed her topic down to a few different presentations of the play.

The conference took place over the course of two days at the Eldridge Hotel in Lawrence, Kansas and featured presenters from as far away as Texas A&M. Hastings, who has also presented twice at the Folklore Society Conference, said that she had about twenty minutes to read her paper to a group of about 12 other scholars.

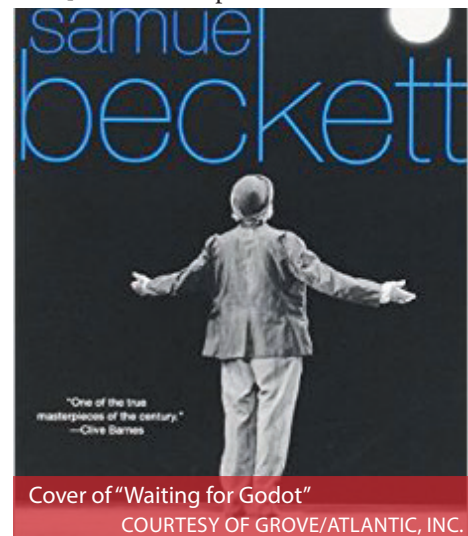


Cover of "Secret of Roan Inish"
COURTESY OF JONES ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
AND SKERRY PRODUCTIONS

"It was a very inspiring weekend," Bartholomew said. "I felt so good about this first conference that I have decided to submit a paper proposal to the ACIS National conference, being held in Kansas City, Kansas in spring of 2017." Other presenters either read papers or used PowerPoints to talk about a diverse set of Irish issues such as history, airlines in Ireland, poetry, and Irish comedians.

The range of topics discussed at the conference reflects the interdisciplinary nature of Irish studies. According to Wall, Irish Studies covers not just literature and film, but the history, music, and language of Ireland as well. As a literary scholar himself, Wall focuses on literature and said, "The idea is that Irish identity and literature is separate from British and American literature... Different things about the Irish experience are reflected in the literature."

Wall stressed that he was proud of Hastings and Bartholomew for submitting their papers to the conference. "It's very good for them professionally," he said. "I feel that our students here at UMSL are as good as the students anywhere... They [Hastings and Bartholomew] did UMSL proud."



Cover of "Waiting for Godot"
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